MESSAGE
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES

RADIO (Army)
No. 657.

Washington, September 23, 1936.

For President Philippines,
Manila.

3. Reference your No. 598, paragraph 2, September 14th, letter from State Department dated September 21, 1936, addressed to Acting Secretary of War, reads in part as follows: (quote)

"On August 26, 1933, the Secretary of State advised the Secretary of War of the receipt of certain decorations conferred by the King of the Belgians upon Lieutenant Colonel Basilio J. Valdes and certain other officers in the Philippine service, and stated that 'in accordance with existing legislation the above mentioned decorations will be retained in the custody of the Department of State until such time as the persons so honored may be in a position legally to accept them.' (paragraph)

An officer of the Philippine Army is still considered to be a person holding an office of profit or trust under the United States and there would therefore be applicable to him the provision of the United States Constitution which in section 9, subsection 8, stipulates that 'no person holding any office of profit or trust under them shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, employment, office, or title of any kind whatever from any King, Prince or Foreign State.' (stop) General Valdes' decoration will therefore be retained in the custody of the Department of State until such time as its acceptance may be authorized by the Congress." (unquote)

Cox

COPY FOR

Major General Basilio J. Valdes,
Philippine Army,
Manila.

Manila, September 25, 1936.

(A true copy.)

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